

REMARKS

The Examiner objected to claims 3-5, 7, 8, 11, 12 and 16-20 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 10 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Bothra US 6,030,885.

Applicants respectfully traverse the §102 rejections with the following arguments.

35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 10 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Bothra US 6,030,885.

Applicants respectfully contend that Bothra does not anticipate amended claim 1, because Bothra does not teach each and every feature of claim 1. For example, Bothra does not teach the feature "M > N". More specifically, for the chip being cut, the cutting around the chip makes more steering turns than the number of chip boundary lines of the chip resulting in less sharp corners for the chip after dicing. In contrast, Bothra describes the chip dicing in which the cutting around the chip makes the same number of steering turns as the number of chip boundary lines. For instance, with reference to FIG. 10 of the Bothra patent, for each chip (die), the cutting by the laser 70 makes 6 steering turns at the 6 corners of the chip. Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully maintain that Bothra does not anticipate amended claim 1, and that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 2 and 6 depend from claim 1, Applicants contend that claims 2 and 6 are likewise in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully contend that Bothra does not anticipate claim 9, because Bothra does not teach each and every feature of claim 9. Based on arguments similar to those for claim 1, Applicants respectfully maintain that Bothra does not anticipate claim 9, and that claim 9 is in condition for allowance. Since claim 10 depends from claim 9, Applicants contend that claim 10 is likewise in condition for allowance.

Applicants respectfully contend that Bothra does not anticipate claim 13, because Bothra does not teach each and every feature of claim 13. Based on arguments similar to those for claim 1, Applicants respectfully maintain that Bothra does not anticipate claim 13, and that claim 13 is

in condition for allowance. Since claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13, Applicants contend that claims 14 and 15 are likewise in condition for allowance.

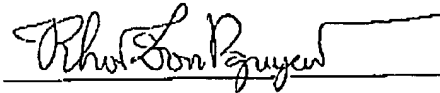
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CONCLUSION

Based on the preceding arguments, Applicants respectfully believe that all pending claims and the entire application meet the acceptance criteria for allowance and therefore request favorable action. If the Examiner believes that anything further would be helpful to place the application in better condition for allowance, Applicants invites the Examiner to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below. The Director is hereby authorized to charge and/or credit Deposit Account No. 09-0456.

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